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NEW YORK TIMES
22 APRIL 1982

Inman to Leave Post as Deputy To C.I.A. Chief

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 21 — Adm. Bobby R. Inman, who took positions on intelligence and foreign affairs that often brought him into conflict with Reagan Administration policy, has decided to resign as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, the White House announced today.

Admiral Inman is the first senior national security official to resign voluntarily from the Reagan Administration for reasons related, at least in part, to policy disagreements.

The White House, in a statement, said that Admiral Inman, 51 years old, who will also resign from the Navy, had planned to leave Government service for several years but was persuaded by President Reagan last year to accept his current job and postpone his retirement for 18 months.

Clashes and Frustration Reported

As word of Admiral Inman's decision spread, members of the Senate and House intelligence committees said they were stunned by the news and concerned that the loss of his moderate viewpoint might clear the way for intelligence agencies to expand their operations in ways that might threaten civil liberties. [Page A26.]

Associates of Admiral Inman, as well as several senators, said that his departure, expected to become effective by midsummer, was prompted by a series of clashes with the White House and mounting frustration over the direction of the Administration's intelligence and foreign policies.

They said that Admiral Inman, whose views are generally considered more liberal than those of other senior officials, was particularly irritated by the White House national security staff, which he apparently felt was obstructing the working out and carrying out of intelligence policy. Admiral Inman said tonight that his departure was primarily a result of his long-standing desire to leave the Government but was also prompted by other concerns, including "steadily diminishing tolerance for petty bureaucratic intrigue."



United Press International

Adm. Bobby R. Inman

One member of the Senate Intelligence Committee said, "You can't imagine the number of times he came up here and had to defend policies it was obvious he disagreed with."

Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., Democrat of Delaware, said: "Inman believes a nation can have both effective intelligence agencies and civil liberties. Without him, the intelligence agencies may be given license to try all kinds of questionable things here and abroad."

Senior Administration officials minimized Admiral Inman's frustrations. William J. Casey, the Director of Central Intelligence, denied that Admiral Inman was disillusioned with Administration policies. "There are always disagreements among officials," Mr. Casey said in an interview. "That's nothing new."

He added that he had a good working relationship with Admiral Inman. Other intelligence officials said that the relationship between the two men was frequently strained.

A senior White House official, who asked not to be identified, acknowledged that Admiral Inman had clashed with the staff of the National Security Council, but added that those differences had been resolved, and expressed doubt that they had played a role in the admiral's decision to resign.

"I don't think there's any big mystery," the official said, adding that he thought Admiral Inman simply wanted to go into the private sector.

Recently, White House officials said, Admiral Inman disagreed with a proposal drafted by the National Security Council staff to reorganize United States counterintelligence activities by creating a new central agency that would take over management of responsibilities now in the hands of the C.I.A. and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

President Reagan praised Admiral Inman for his "leadership and wise counsel" in a letter accepting the Admiral's resignation that was made public by the White House today. It was dated April 21. Noting that he accepted the resignation with "deep regret," Mr. Reagan stated, "You leave the intelligence community in a strengthened and enhanced posture."

Seeking 'Fresh Challenges'

The White House also made public a letter to the President from Admiral Inman, dated March 22, in which Mr. Inman wrote that he wanted to leave Government service to "move on to fresh challenges." Mr. Inman wrote that he originally accepted the deputy directorship "reluctantly."

Bobby Ray Inman, born in Rhonessboro, Tex., entered the Navy in 1952, rising through the ranks rapidly. He began specializing in intelligence work in 1961, serving as chief intelligence officer for the Seventh Fleet, naval attaché in Sweden and Director of Naval Intelligence. Before becoming director of the National Security Agency in 1976, he also served as vice director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

When Admiral Inman was recruited for the job in January 1981, he was serving as Director of the National Security Agency, the nation's largest intelligence agency, which uses satellites and other advanced electronic equipment to monitor worldwide communications. It is also responsible for cracking enemy codes and developing unbreakable ciphers for the United States.

Admiral Inman reportedly resisted the move to become Deputy Director of Central Intelligence, a job that carries the dual responsibility of being the nation's No. 2 intelligence officer and being second in command of the Central Intelligence Agency. He preferred the undiluted authority of running his own

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